

24 Feb 11 Town Hall, Questions and Answers

Morning Session, 0900

Q1: Five personnel in First Army will be retiring/transitioning after 1 September 2011. How do we handle their retirements/transitioning since Military Personnel Division (MPD) will be closed?

A1: The tenants are responsible for these personnel that remain in the area. The personnel are a major command's responsibility to ensure the personnel are taken care of.

Q2: An enlisted member from the Dental Clinic said he is currently in on-post housing and has received notice that he must move in August. He does not report to his new duty location until October so how can he stay in quarters longer than August?

A2: The Soldier's mission at Fort McPherson will end when the Dental Clinic closes, NLT 15 July 2011. He may transfer to another medical treatment facility or early permanent change of station (PCS) may be authorized; however, on-post housing must be cleared NLT 15 August 2011. The Garrison CSM will work with the Soldier on his report date.

Q3: Are Gillem Enclave positions being filled from the Priority Placement Program (PPP)?

A3: Yes, there is a possibility because there will be specific announcements for specific jobs.

Q4: In early Fall there was a retirement class scheduled that was subsequently cancelled. Will it be rescheduled?

A4: If there is a need and a requirement, yes we will work on getting a retirement class scheduled with Army Benefits Center-Civilian (ABC-C); however, you must attend. We need to ensure attendance.

Q5: Regarding the Enclave positions, who will work the hiring for these positions? If it is Fort Gordon, do we have to have Fort Gordon in our PPP area of availability to be considered?

A5: Fort Gordon will work the hiring for these positions. If you are signed up for the local area, this is where PPP will hit. You do not have to be available at Fort Gordon since the positions are here in the local area.

Q6: An Army Corps of Engineers representative asked where will their Soldiers get their support?

A6: Attend the Gillem Enclave Town Hall on 25 February 2011 where all the service providers from Fort Gordon will be present and this is a good forum to know the level of services Fort Gordon will provide to the Enclave.

Q7: When will MPD close? When is last retirement ceremony?

A7: The last retirement ceremony is 23 May 2011 (Monday before Memorial Day). The MPD will close 29 August 2011.

Q8: Fire Captain thanked the Garrison Commander (GC) for her kind words and then asked if the Garrison has decided to lift the pay cap for supervisor positions if they worked beyond the cap.

A8: The GC has approved the paperwork and it is to go to DFAS for processing. No other BRAC location is experiencing this problem.

Q9: Follow-on question, is there any way to recover the lost money as a result of the pay cap?

A9: There is no known way to recover the loss.

Q10: Another follow-on question, is the GC aware that this situation is about to happen again?

A10: Yes, the GC is aware.

Q11: Once you start receiving severance pay, are you considered out of the system? How does that impact my life insurance?

A11: Questions regarding life insurance and other benefits must be answered by an ABC-C benefits counselor.

Q12: If you were selected to receive Voluntary Separation Incentive Pay (VSIP), are we exempt from the conditions for re-employment with the federal government?

"According to 9902 (g)(6)(b) of reference states: An employee receiving VSIP on or after March 1994, an employee who accepts a position with the government including Non-Appropriated Funds (NAF) within 5 years after the date of separation on which receive VSIP payment shall be required to repay the entire amount of the (before taxes and deductions) to the Department of Defense. A DoD employee who receives VSIP may not be re-employed by the DoD including NAF for a 12-month period beginning the effective date of separation."

A12: No you will not be exempt. If you take a Federal job before 5 years, you must pay back the full \$25,000 taxes included.

Q13: Why are enclave/caretaker jobs being put on USA Jobs instead of filling slots from within the Garrison?

A13: Must have open competition for hiring.

Q14: I am already in PPP, I am not eligible for retirement, and I am a severance pay eligible. Do I have to remain in PPP?

A14: Yes, there is no option. You will be registered for your same grade and two grades below.

Q15: I am eligible for Discontinued Service Retirement (DSR). Is there a specific person to talk to at CPAC concerning DSR retirements?

A15: No. For specific information regarding retirement and benefits you will need to talk to ABC-C. In the CPAC, the specialist will not give retirement and benefits counseling. They will only fill out Form 1510 to be sent in.

Q16: In reference to severance pay, how will this affect a person who received compensation and pension benefits from the Veterans Administration (VA)?

A16: SJA gave the response that if the VA benefit is tied to a military annuity, you will not get severance pay.

Q17: There is not enough time to complete relocation requirements. Why is it taking so long once an employee accepts a valid PPP offer for a release date to be negotiated? Is there anything the organization can do to assist Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC) in this process?

A17: With regard to release dates, once the employee accepts the job, it is up to the selecting agency and we have no control over it. There is a 30-day window if the position is a PCS. There is nothing we can do to expedite the process.

Q18: Will the MPD be fully staffed through 29 August 2011?

A18: Yes.

Q19: Will we be paid during the time period we are on PPP waiting to be placed?

A19: Only as long as you remain in a pay status or if you retire and begin receiving a retirement check or if you are eligible for severance pay and you receive a severance pay check.

Q20: It is possible or has it been considered for Garrison employees to be placed into positions in FORSCOM at Fort Bragg?

A20: Not unless you apply for an advertised vacancy. FORSCOM experienced a transfer of function. Theoretically, there are no vacancies unless current employees choose not to move with their jobs. You must apply for the positions at Fort Bragg.

Q21: How many personnel have currently been assigned positions as a result of being on PPP?

A21: We do not have those numbers.

Q22: Regarding DSR, how do you make that happen or is it automatic?

A22: It is not automatic, it is a decision you make. It is not mandatory; it is an option that may be acted upon by any employee who wishes to continue to work in Federal Service.

Q23: I am Wage Grade (WG). Can I apply for General Schedule (GS) positions?

A23: Yes being WG does not prohibit you from applying for a GS position. If enrolled in PPP, you must be found well qualified to be registered in PPP. You can apply for GS positions advertised by other agencies and be selected for any position you are found to be qualified for.

Q24: What is the likelihood and/or percentage that Garrison employees will be placed off the PPP list into federal positions?

A24: PPP is a program to assist with employment and does not guarantee employment. Placement depends on the area of consideration selected by the employee. Employees may have to expand their area of consideration to increase their likelihood of being placed through PPP.

Q25: Question with the Understanding:

MANDATORY PPP registration is at your current grade and 2 grades below. VOLUNTARY is at current grade or down to the grade that I select. I am already in PPP (voluntary status). I am not eligible for any type of retirement and do not want Voluntary Early Retirement Authority/Voluntary Incentive Separation Payment (VERA/VSIP). Can I stay in the voluntary status after Reduction-In-Force (RIF), and not be considered mandatory?

A25: No you may not. Any person who is eligible for severance pay, meaning you are not eligible for any form of federal retirement, must be mandatorily registered in PPP.

Afternoon Session, 1300

Q1: With the age of dependent children being raised to 26, we will be swamped at the ID Section. Will this impact the closure timeline for the ID Section?

A1: No, we will stay on track for closure. If we need to bring in help from other installations to support a surge requirement, we have IMCOM-SE RD's support to do so. The GC is looking to her Directors to let her know.

Q2: 3d MP Group, HR Tech, asked how will we help ETS'ing Soldiers in September with the One-Stop closing in August?

A2: The Garrison CSM said this is a unit issue. We at the Garrison do not have the capability to handle these. The GC said the Garrison will close in September. The 3d MP Group needs to consider which installation will be responsible for these Soldiers. Fort Gordon will not put green suiters in the Gillem Enclave.

Q3: I am DSR eligible. Will I go on unemployment if I choose to go on PPP?

A3: If you are eligible for any form of retirement, you will not get severance pay. For questions on unemployment, please talk with the GA Department of Labor, tell them "I am eligible for DSR, can I also receive unemployment?" The Deputy Garrison Commander added the Department of Labor will be here next week in Bldg 243, the Installation Operations Center. PAO will send out an e-mail to all garrison users notifying them of DOL's presence.

Q4: I have applied for jobs in the past that required my RIF letter for me to receive ICTAP consideration. Once I get my RIF letter, can I resubmit the announcement with my RIF letter to the agency even though the announcement had already closed prior to me receiving my RIF letter?

A4: No, once the announcement is closed, it is closed.

Q5: We have a Defense Commissary Agency (DECA) Military disabled retiree. Will he receive any VSIP/VERA eligibility?

A5: He could be eligible for VSIP/VERA; however, that would have to be authorized by DECA, not the Garrison. DECA HQ representatives will be here 3-7 March 2011 so be sure to ask them this question.